

## Maine State Library Maine State Documents

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Maine Writers Correspondence

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7-9-2014

# Wendell Gilley Correspondence

Wendell Holmes Gilley 1904-1983

Hilda McLeod Jacob

*Maine State Library*

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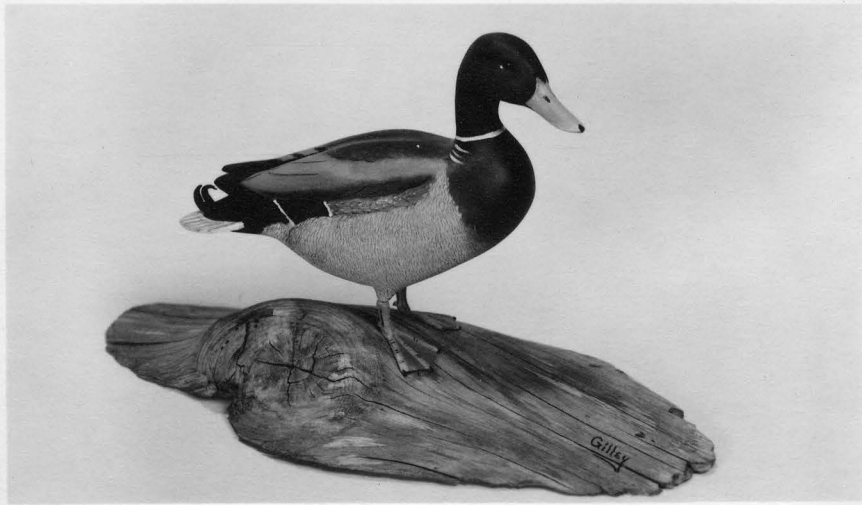
Gilley, Wendell Holmes 1904-1983; Jacob, Hilda McLeod; and Maine State Library, "Wendell Gilley Correspondence" (2014). *Maine Writers Correspondence*. 38.

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GILLEY, Wendell H  
b. Southwest Harbor, August 21, 1904







January 26, 1962

Mr. Wendell Gilley  
c/o Van Nostrand  
120 Alexander Street  
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Gilley:

Your book BIRD CARVING was placed on our order list, and we expect to see a copy soon. The advance notices indicate that this is just the sort of book for which we have frequent calls, and we anticipate its being a most useful addition to the library.

We understand that you are a Maine craftsman, and we think that we may therefore be able to claim you as a Maine author. We try to gather and have on file all available information, biographical and critical, about Maine writers; and we also have a proud collection for exhibit and study purposes of the works of Maine authors. These books are for the most part inscribed presentation copies, and form an increasingly valuable and fascinating display.

We hope that an inscribed copy of BIRD CARVING may be included in the exhibit, and we send you our very good wishes for the success of the book, and of your work.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

November 29, 1962

Mr. Wendell Gilley  
Soughwest Harbor  
Maine

Dear Mr. Gilley:

When we ordered your book on bird carving, we wrote to you about the Maine Author Collection. Perhaps we failed to interest you in this exhibit of Maine writing, or perhaps the matter is just awaiting attention in some leisure moment, of which we know you have very few.

At any rate, we want you to know that we would still be proud and appreciative to be able to include an inscribed copy of your book in the collection.

Sometime will you tell us whether we claim you as a Maine-born author, or an adopted one? We should very much like to have biographical facts about you on file.

We hope that the welcome accorded BIRD CARVING is satisfying, and that you feel somewhat repaid thereby for sharing your knowledge with readers.

Sincerely yours

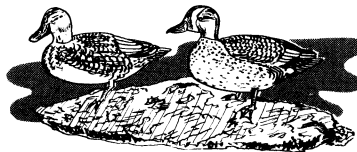
hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

WENDELL H. GILLEY  
Hand Carved Birds  
Southwest Harbor, Maine

12/1/62

Maine State Library  
Augusta, Maine



Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thank you for your nice letter received yesterday. If you have written me some time prior to Nov. 29, 1962 I never did receive the letter.

I am sending you an autographed copy of BIRD Carving. Please accept it with my compliments.

Biographical facts:

Name Wendell Holmes Gilley  
Birthplace Southwest Harbor, Maine  
Age 58  
Occupation until 1956 Plumbing Contractor  
Occupation present Bird Carver  
Attended University of Maine 1½yrs. Member of  
Beta Theta Pi fraternity Class of 1925  
Married with one son  
Residence Southwest Harbor, Maine

If you need any more facts just let me know.

Sincerely,

*Wendell Gilley*



December 6, 1962

Mr. Wendell H. Gilley  
Southwest Harbor  
Maine

Dear Mr. Gilley:

Thank you very much for your friendly letter, for the lovely post card, and for the inscribed copy of BIRD CARVING.

The Maine Author Collection, as perhaps you know, is a permanent exhibit of books written by Maine people, or about the state in some way. It includes about three thousand volumes now, most of which are inscribed presentation copies. We try to have complete information, biographical and critical, about our authors, and we appreciate your sending us the facts about you. We would like to have the birthdate, sometime at your convenience.

The instructions in your book are remarkably clear, and we hope that some who read will be kindled with the determination to try their hand at this carving hobby. One thing which cannot, we know, be imparted through the pages of a book, is experience, and your years of experience have developed the skill which made possible the birds in these illustrations. We hope, however, that such beautiful specimens will encourage the beginners.

Thank you again.

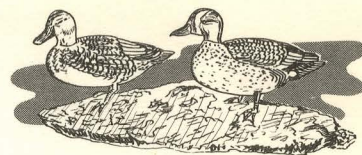
Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection

WENDELL H. GILLEY  
Hand Carved Birds  
Southwest Harbor, Maine

12/8/62



Dear Mrs. Jacob:

Thanks for your letter of Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.  
I didn't know about the Maine  
Author collection before.

I was born at Southwest Harbor,  
Maine. August 21, 1904. I am  
a descendent of John Gilley of  
whom President Elliot of Harvard  
wrote about in his book. The Life  
of John Gilley. I believe John Gilley  
was my grandfather's uncle.

In case you are interested I just  
had a write up in the Jan 1963  
edition of Down East Magazine.

Sincerely,

Wendell Gilley

December 12, 1962

Mr. Wendell Gilley  
Southwest Harbor  
Maine

Dear Mr. Gilley:

Thank you for the birthdate, and the most interesting information about your connection with John Gilley. This should, no doubt, have occurred to us, and we're glad you spoke of it.

And thank you, too, for the second beautiful post card. If these cards are widely available, they should spread the news of your carving, because they are so irresistible. Their personalities shine expressively even in photography.

Sincerely yours

hmj

In Charge of  
Maine Author Collection